

Ad Hoc Water Quality Working Group

December 16, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Group Members – Carl Elefante, Co-Chair; Diane Cameron, Co-Chair; Steve Shofar, Mark Pfefferle, John Cook, Rick Brush, Rich Thometz, Dusty Rood, Keith Levchenko

Guests – Bob Harris, Amy Quant, Jennifer Russel, Mary Dolan, Claire Iseli, Nancy Aldous, Jim Soltesz, Mike McCann, Bette Petrides, Bob Egan, Stewart Comstock (via phone conference)

Staff – Joyce Fuhrmann

Carl Elefante assumed the Chair for this meeting. Bob Harris presented a summary of the December 15, 2009 meeting at MNCPPC with Environmental Planners, some Working Group Members and guests. Mr. Harris and Diane Cameron will prepare a written summary for the Group's use.

Joyce Fuhrmann gave an update on the field trip to Ten Mile Creek. County buses are not available for use during rush hour and there is a fee for use. The Group is still very interested in seeing the area first-hand. Mary Dolan offered to help coordinate use of Park and Planning vehicles. The next Working Group meeting will be on January 6th at 9AM. Diane Cameron indicated that she is unable to attend in person, but will join the group by phone for the first hour.

The Group discussed the scope of the Working Group's Study and report. A suggestion was made to limit speakers at future meetings in favor of discussion among Working Group members. The Group discussed this and agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from several other experts in a variety of capacities before formulating the final report to the Council. These other experts and areas of interest include: best practices in new technologies from someone with field experience; someone with more of a building industry perspective; a federal regulatory perspective from Glen Rountree with NAHB; Ernie Sheppe, Fred Jacobs; Rose Krasnow and Mark Etheridge. Rich Thometz, Dusty Rood and Mark Pfefferle are the subcommittee in charge of developing the final list of speakers from whom the Group will hear.

The Group reviewed an outline drafted by Carl Elefante that reflects a proposed report scope. Group Members were assigned sections to begin drafting.

- Mark Pfefferle (with help from Mary Dolan) will draft the background section 'What has been developed in Clarksburg to date? What "triggers" that have been met to bring about consideration of Stage 4 development? Which of these triggers has impact on water quality? ... What is the Stage 4 Master Plan? What factors in the Stage 4 Master Plan affect water quality?'
- Steve Shofar (with assistance from his staff) will draft the section on current water quality conditions in Ten Mile Creek.

- Dusty Rood will draft the section on water quality protection measures and their relevance to the Ten Mile Creek Watershed. ‘Water quality regulations; What regulated water quality in the previous Stages of development in Clarksburg? What changes to the regulations will affect Stage 4 development and how? In light of the Stage 4 Master Plan, which regulated water quality issues are of greatest concern? Least concern?’ The Group agreed that they need more information before asking someone to write the section on best practices.
- Diane Cameron asked that #7 from the Council’s Resolution creating the working group be incorporated into the report to the Council, relating to the County’s prior experience in protecting streams via land cover requirements; she agreed to draft that section of the Report. The Group might need to invite Keith Van Ness back to talk about the experience the county has had with other Special Protection Areas.

[Note: For reference #7 is reprinted below:

Since the approval of the 1994 Clarksburg Master Plan, Montgomery County has gained experience in protecting streams using land cover requirements, including limiting impervious surfaces and maintaining riparian and upland forest cover, in the Upper Paint Branch and Upper Rock Creek Special Protection Areas and in the Sandy Spring/Ashton Rural Neighborhood Cluster Zone in Upper Northwest Branch. Key to the establishment of these land-cover-based watershed protection approaches was the County's recognition of the importance of headwater stream systems. These systems provide the foundation for a stable flow of water, including through maintenance of groundwater recharge levels.]

The Group held a conference call with Stewart Comstock, Regulatory & Compliance Engineer with the Maryland Department of the Environment. He presented some background on the Storm Water Management Act of 2007, how it was developed, key elements and how it will be implemented. Group Members asked extensive questions about the Act and the results anticipated as it is implemented. Mr. Comstock mentioned that he has not had the opportunity to follow the changes in Sediment and Erosion Control regulations and suggested that Ken Pensyl at the Maryland Department of the Environment would be the best person to contact for those issues.

Group Members expressed their concern that the schedule should reflect the work that needs to be completed to meet the charge of the Council by February 1st. The Group decided not to ask for an extension of time, but rather to meet every Wednesday in January and hold an all day ‘summit’ in January to complete its work. A date for the summit was not selected at this time. Joyce Fuhrmann will work with Mary Dolan on logistics for the field trip, tentatively set for January 8th in the morning.

Carl Elefante had to leave early, so in his place Diane Cameron thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

